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The President's Daily Brief

12 June 1972

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 June 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Military action in South Vietnam over the weekend was concentrated in the northern provinces and in the delta. The difficulties being encountered by the North Vietnamese during the current offensive in the South may be causing some Communist officials to take a more cautious line about the outcome of the offensive. *(Page 1)*

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to France is to focus on a review of the Moscow summit and on European matters. *(Page 3)*

[redacted] Bangladesh [redacted] 25X1
Pakistan [redacted] 25X1
any negotiations. *(Page 4)*

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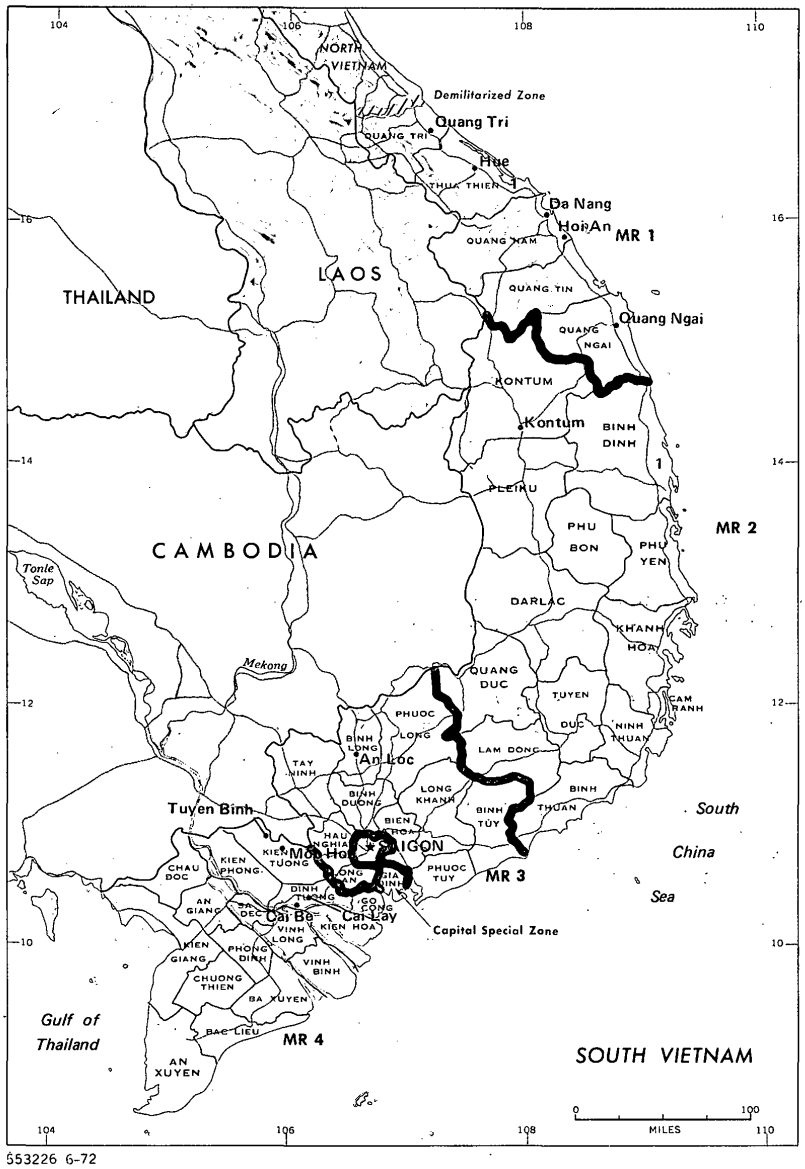

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VIETNAM

Most of the military action in South Vietnam over the weekend occurred at the northern and southern ends of the country.

A number of enemy artillery attacks and ground engagements took place around Hue and along Route 1 north of the city. Da Nang and Hoi An were also hit by artillery, and the enemy is active near Quang Ngai City. The five-battalion South Vietnamese Marine foray into southern Quang Tri Province ended on schedule after three days. The enemy [redacted] and apparently suffered little damage. 25X1 25X1

Fighting was also widespread in the Mekong Delta. Communist forces attacked Tuyen Binh district town in Kien Tuong Province on 10 June, and fighting is continuing between the town and the Cambodian border. The provincial capital, Moc Hoa, and three nearby ranger bases have been shelled or have come under ground attack, causing 2,000 of Moc Hoa's 15,000 residents to flee south. The enemy also overran outposts in Dinh Tuong, Kien Hoa, Kieng Giang, and Bac Lieu provinces, launched ground assaults against district headquarters in Ba Xuyen and An Xuyen provinces, and shelled the provincial capital of Bac Lieu.

The situation was relatively quiet around An Loc and Kontum over the weekend, but enemy forces have been detected moving closer to Kontum again. Communications intelligence indicates that the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 320th Division is moving toward the northern edge of the city, and the 2nd Division headquarters is moving in from the east. US pilots have reported enemy supply activity north and west of Kontum.

US pilots attacking power plants and railroad bridges in North Vietnam report encountering balloons suspended in clusters over target areas. Explosive charges attached to the balloons are detonated from the ground when aircraft come near.

Hanoi may be using the balloons to help conserve antiaircraft ammunition and surface-to-air missiles.

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Two reports concerning shipping into Haiphong are not borne out by currently available evidence. On Saturday, Radio Hanoi stated that a ship carrying medical supplies from Japan had berthed in Haiphong, whereas we have no information indicating any vessel has transited the minefields since their activation. A Japanese press report the same day stated that the Yasnomorsk, a Soviet freighter under charter to North Vietnam, had left Osaka and was scheduled to arrive in Haiphong on 20 June. 25X1

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It appears that word may have been passed from the southern battlefields to both Hanoi and its representatives abroad warning that the current offensive is not going so well as originally expected.

the Viet Cong's chief negotiator in Paris, Madame Binh, recently said that the bombing of North Vietnam was disturbing, that Saigon's troops were fighting more effectively than expected, and that the people of South Vietnam were not supporting the Communists by remaining in the "liberated areas" but instead were moving closer to major government population centers. Another North Vietnamese official in Paris echoed her remarks and blamed the overestimation of popular support for the campaign on reports from the Communists' southern command indicating the people would support the revolution once the offensive began. 25X1 25X1 25X1

These comments come on the heels of reports that the Communists' top southern command, COSVN, is displeased over the inability of the Viet Cong's political apparatus to generate "popular uprisings" throughout the country. Since mid-May, COSVN has issued several directives chastising its subordinate commands for failing to rally the people to support the revolution by revolting against the government. The latest directive, disseminated in early June, criticizes in fairly harsh terms the shortcomings of the Viet Cong apparatus and specifically warns the cadre not to rely solely on the military aspect of the offensive to accomplish their objectives.

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USSR-FRANCE

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko today begins a four-day official visit to France that is likely to focus on a review of the Moscow summit and on European matters. Gromyko is to meet with President Pompidou, Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas, and Foreign Minister Schumann. A French Foreign Ministry official has said that the visit will be largely devoted to substantive consultations on such matters as the planned Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), mutual and balanced force reductions, and inter-German relations. The Middle East and Vietnam will receive less attention.

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For his part, Gromyko is likely to push hard for more rapid movement toward a CSCE and should find the French rather receptive on this score. Gromyko is aware of French opposition to force reductions and may well be inclined to let Paris raise the question. Gromyko surely will press for quicker French recognition of East Germany, but Paris is likely to stress continued Four-Power consultations. The Soviets are also likely to seek French views on West European integration, a subject on which Moscow is having difficulty in formulating tactics.

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BANGLADESH-PAKISTAN

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NOTE

Yugoslavia-USSR: President Tito's visit to Moscow, which ended Saturday, apparently continued the trend toward improved Soviet-Yugoslav relations without changes in the basic positions of either country. The Soviet reception was cordial, and party chief Brezhnev doled out honors for the aging Yugoslav leader with an open hand; Tito's, and indeed the general Yugoslav reaction, was warmly receptive. Both sides approved in principle an increase in their political contacts and economic cooperation. In international affairs, the communiqué focused on areas of agreement, ignoring or artfully veiling existing differences.

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